AgriBiz!

SC Agricultural Education Magazine Volume XIII Issue 2 2012

2012-2013 South Carolina State FFA Officers

Trent Rushton is a member of the Wagener- Salley FFA Chapter and was elected as State FFA President. He is the son of Michael and Carolyn Rushton and has one sister, Kaylee. Outside of his FFA activities, Trent enjoys duck hunting, rabbit hunting, and fishing. He wants his lasting contribution on the SC FFA program to be making a positive difference, caring for everyone, and making the organization even better. The most important lesson that he has learned is that "a life lived for God is the only way to happiness and fullness."

Maria Ausburn is a member of the Crescent FFA Chapter and was elected as State FFA Secretary. She is the daughter of Joe and Carrie Ausburn. She has one brother, Donald. She enjoys FFA because it provides many opportunities to meet new people and to travel to new places. As her lasting contribution to the SC FFA she wants to be able to walk across the stage at the State Convention knowing that she made an impact on FFA members and shared a way of communication that will help their chapters. The most valuable lesson that she has learned is that sometimes you can't plan for everything and just to "Go with the Flow."

Zachary MacDougal is a member of the Pendleton FFA Chapter and was elected as State FFA Vice President. His parents are Joe and Nancy MacDougal. He has a sister, Alicia. He wants his lasting contribution to create a spark in members present and future and to teach them to accomplish and reach for their goals. The most valuable lesson that he has learned is "when you don't think you can go anymore, you are wrong. 'Life isn't about how hard you can hit; it's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward.'"

Hunter Holland is a member of the Latta FFA Chapter and was elected as State FFA Vice President. She is the daughter of Kathy Campbell and Fred Holland. She has two brothers, Bradley and McCall and two sisters, Kinna and Kyla. She enjoys being a FFA member because "it gives me so many opportunities and allows me to be a part of not only an organization, but also a family that is bigger than myself." The most valuable lesson that Hunter has learned is "to always be yourself and wherever you go and whatever you are doing, do it with all your heart."

Dylan Way is a member of the Socastee FFA Chapter and was elected as State FFA Vice President. He is the son of Peggy and Mike Way and has a sister, Stacy. Outside of FFA, Dylan enjoys turkey hunting, shooting, or going out on his boat. He wants his lasting contribution to the SC FFA to be motivating kids with a non-agricultural background to join FFA. The most valuable lesson that he has learned is if at first you don't succeed, try, and try again.

Andrew Snipes is a member of the Pelion FFA Chapter and was elected as State FFA Vice President. He is the son of Sara and Jimmie Rushton and has a sister, Jessica and a brother, Josh. Andrew wants his lasting contribution to SC FFA to be motivating students to join FFA and to make a positive difference for the future members. Outside of FFA activities, Andrew likes to hunt. The most valuable lesson that Andrew has learned is to never take anything for granted.

Stover Receives Order of the Palmetto

Mr. Frank R. Stover was presented the Order of the Palmetto, the highest honor given to a civilian in the State of South Carolina. Ms. Frances Price, who currently serves as Chair for the Agriculture Commission of South Carolina, presented the award at the first General Session of the 85th Annual South Carolina FFA Association State Convention at Clemson University. Ms. Price presented the Award on behalf of Governor Nikki Haley.

Born in Kershaw County, South Carolina, Frank Stover is a graduate of, what was then, Clemson College with a B S Degree in Agricultural Education. After graduating from Clemson, he was inducted in the Army where he served as a platoon leader and company commander for the 3rd Armored Division. Following his military service to his country, Mr. Stover began his career of service to thousands of young men and women in Agricultural Education.

His career began in 1953 where he served as the Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor at Pelion High School. Under his leadership, the Pelion FFA chapter was very active and received many awards for outstanding achievements. A highlight of his accomplishments was one of his students being selected as a National FFA Officer. At the time, this was only the third person from South Carolina ever to hold such an honor.

In addition to his work with his students, Mr. Stover also believed that learning is a life long process. He therefore established a strong community adult program through the Pelion Young Farmer Chapter. The chapter was very active and its members received many awards and provided valuable services in the community.

In 1965, Mr. Stover was hired by the Office of Vocational Education, SC Department of Education to serve as Executive Secretary for the SC Association of Future Farmers of America and the SC Association of Young Farmers of America. In 1969 Mr. Stover was promoted to the position of State Supervisor of Agricultural Education and Advisor for the SC Association of Future Farmers of America and the SC Young Farmers of America. He served in this capacity until retiring in 1984. During his tenor as State Supervisor he served on several national boards.

Perhaps Mr. Stover's most noted accomplishment occurred near the end of his distinguished professional career. It was at that time Mr. Stover realized the need to establish the SC FFA Foundation, which would serve to seek and manage funds to support the South Carolina FFA Association. As a result of his leadership and foresight, it was in 1975 that Mr. Stover began the process of forming and chartering the South Carolina FFA Foundation. Bylaws for the South Carolina FFA Foundation were adopted in 1985 and Mr. Stover was named as the Executive Director / Treasurer of the newly created SC FFA Foundation. He continues to perform this role in a highly efficient and productive manner. Under his leadership, he has managed the assets and investments of the Foundation to produce hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, which are utilized to conduct FFA activities throughout the state.

In addition to his work with Agricultural Education, Mr. Stover is very civic minded. He has realized his responsibility as a citizen of South Carolina and a member of the Pelion Community where he and his wife Betty, have been residents and upstanding citizens since 1953. It is in Pelion where they raised their family, which consists of two daughters; Joyce and Ann and a son, Frank, Jr. Frank, Jr. has followed in his father's footsteps to serve as an outstanding Agriculture Teacher at Pelion High School.

Mr. Stover also believed that learning is a life long process.

Mr. Stover's leadership skills did not go unnoticed in his community where he served as Mayor of the town of Pelion from 1993 – 1999. In addition, both he and Betty helped organize the SC Pelion Peanut Party and have assisted with hosting this annual event for 25 years. He has also served as Vice Chairman of the Lexington County Water and Sewer Commission for several years and was recently elected to fill the vacancy of Chairman.

In addition to his political duties, Mr. Stover has been active in many organizations. He is very active in the local Ruritan Club where he has held leadership roles. His interest in the environment and the outdoors led him to hold a life membership in the National Rifle Association.

Frank R Stover has been an excellent example and role model for the youth and citizens of South Carolina. His life will leave a long and lasting legacy of achievements for our state. His accomplishments, mentioned above, are but a sample of the numerous accomplishments of a man who dedicated his life to young people, agriculture, his local community, his state and his country.

85th Annual FFA State Convention
Clemson, SC

The warm summer breeze didn't hinder the 700 plus FFA members and guests from wearing their blue corduroy jackets as they made their way to Clemson University to participate in the 85th South Carolina State FFA Convention on June 6-8, 20012. The 700 plus in attendance was the largest group in recent memory.

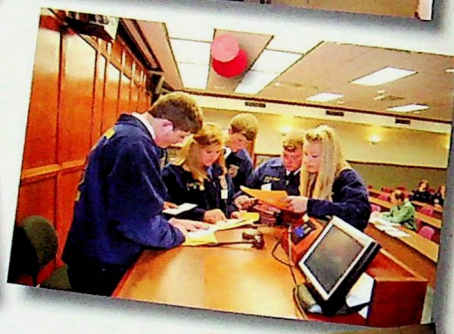
The First General Session included an official welcome to Clemson University from, Dean Thomas R. Scott, College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences. One of the highlights of the session was the presentation of 'The Order of Palmetto" to Mr. Frank Stover Sr., the Executive Treasurer of the SC FFA Foundation. In addition, the "top" chapters were recognized during the National Chapter and Governor's Citation presentations. Individual FFA members were presented with over $10,000 in scholarships for their hard work in school and the FFA. A special thanks goes to the SC Young Farmers and Agribusiness Association, National FFA and the SC Fertilizer and Agrichemicals Association for the scholarships they presented. The night ended with a truly inspiring story from the keynote speaker, Christopher Coleman.

On Thursday morning nine State CDE events were conducted, while many members attended a workshop presented by Alicia Hodnik, National FFA Vice President. In the afternoon, over 170 members received their State FFA Degree, and that evening, five members where recognized as candidates for the American FFA Degree. In addition, the Honorary FFA Degree was presented to several adults that help make the SC FFA successful. After the top students were recognized with the "FFA Stars Over South Carolina" presentation, the members ended the night with fun and games at the Clemson University Union.

Friday morning thirty-nine chapters received awards for having 75% -100+% membership. In addition, twenty-eight members were honored as State Proficiency Award winners.

The convention concluded with the announcement of six FFA members that will carry the torch for the next year with the election of the new state officer team.

The Association would like to thank the 2011-12 State FFA Officer team for their hard work during their year of service.



SC FFA CDE State Winners

Creed Speaking

Pendleton
Josh Pruitt
Blake Berry – Advisor

Greenhand Knowledge Bowl

Manning
Ariana Ruiz, Kendra Mallet,
Synboia Miller, Alexis Dingle

Upper Creed Speaking

Abbeville
Lindsey Costner
Fred Raines – Advisor

Job Interview

Pendleton
Angel Woody
Blake Berry – Advisor

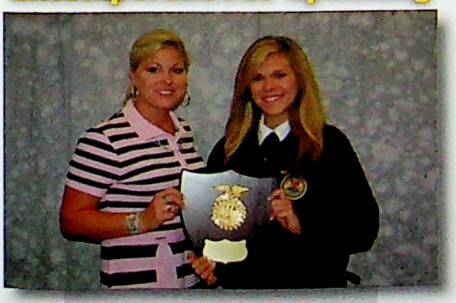
Parlimentary Procedure

Manning
Jordan Carter, Daishawn Blanding,
Leigh Fleming, Taylor Falls, Sarah Farmer,
Trevon Andrews, Sabrina Dingle

Farm Business Management

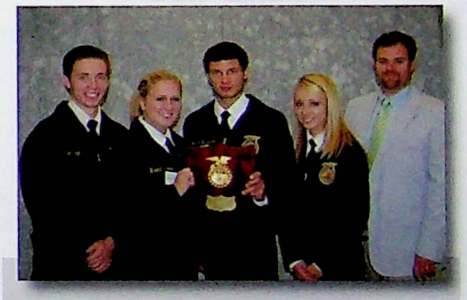
Aynor
Alyssa Sargent, Haley Hardwick,
Roxanne Squires, Matt Finch
James Roberts – Advisor

Extemporaneous Speaking



Strom Thurmond
Allie Ghant
Darla Steele – Advisor

Turf Grass



Loris
Hannah Hardee, Colby Hardee, Lauren Todd
Nate Bellamy –Advisor

Prepared Public Speaking

Pendleton
Savannah Vickery
Blake Berry – Advisor

The Cross Section of an Ear of Corn serves as the emblem's foundation, just as corn has historically served as a foundation crop in American Agriculture. Corn is also a symbol of unity because it is native to America and grown in every state.

National Chapter Governor Citation Winners

The National Chapter Award program recognizes FFA chapters that successfully complete an annual Program of Activities that includes a series of activities designed to encourage its members to grow as individuals, to work as part of a team, and to serve others.

Governor Citations were awarded to the Manning Chapter in the area of Student Development, the McBee Chapter in the area of Chapter Development and the Strom Thurmond Chapter in the area of Community Development.

Mr. Wesley Harris, Secretary/Treasurer of the South Carolina Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, Mr. Larry Rogers, Farm Loan Specialist - USDA Farm Service Agency and William C. Stanley, President of the South Carolina Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, presented the chapters with a check for $1000 on behalf of SC Rural Rehabilitation Corporation.

Manning

Wesley Harris, SC Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, Michael Haynes, Advisor, Courtney Parsons, Manning FFA President, Larry Rogers, USDA-FSA and William C. Stanley President of the SC Rural Rehabilitation Corporation.

McBee

Wesley Harris, SC Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, Pat Earle, Advisor, Alicia Hawksworth, McBee FFA President, Larry Rogers, USDA-FSA and William C. Stanley President of the SC Rural Rehabilitation Corporation.

Strom Thurmond

Wesley Harris, SC Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, Darla Steele, Advisor, Kinsley Reeves, Strom Thurmond FFA President, Dan Henderson, Advisor, Larry Rogers, USDA-FSA and William C. Stanley President of the SC Rural Rehabilitation Corporation.

South Carolina Stars

FFA Members received the title of State Stars at the 85th State FFA Convention. The Star Award is the highest award given to FFA members based on their Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE). The three areas recognized are Star Farmer, sponsored by SC Cooperative Council, Star in Agribusiness, sponsored by Southern States Cooperative and the SC FFA Foundation, and Star in Agriculture Placement, sponsored by the SC FFA Foundation.

Star Farmer

Lydia Yon – Mother
Corbin Yon – Star Farmer
Ridge Spring – Monetta Chapter
Michael Crim – Advisor

Star AgriBusiness

Darla Steele – Advisor
Andrew Wihelm – Star in Agribusiness
Strom Thurmond Chapter
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Wihelm – Parents

Star Placement

Bert Beasley – Advisor
Dylan Duncan – Star in Agriculture Placement
East Clarendon Chapter
Mr. and Mrs. Andy Duncan – Parents

2011-2012 Scholarship Winners

Alicia Hodnik National FFA Vice President is picture with Robert Mitchell of the York Chapter. Robert was awarded the AGCO Dealer Scholarship and the Champion Laboratories Inc./ Luber-finer totaling $2,000.00

Alicia Hodnik National FFA Vice President is picture with Kinsley Reeves of the Strom Thurmond Chapter. Kinsley was awarded the Ford Trucks/ Built Ford Tough Scholarship totaling $1,000.00

Mike Watkins, Executive Director of the S.C. Fertilizer and Agri-Chemicals Association presents Corbin Yon of the Ridge Springs – Monetta Chapter the Hilton V. Rogers Scholarship, with his advisor Michael Crim

ArborOne Farm Credit Holds Fundraiser for Youth in Agriculture

Michael Kirby, ArborOne, Chris Bradham, ArborOne, Billy Keels, State Director of Agriculture and State FFA Advisor, Charles Vernon, ArborOne and Jason Creamer, ArborOne.

On October 15, ArborOne Farm Credit and its 2011 Talent Management team presented the first annual "Aim-At-Ag" sporting clays tournament to benefit the youth leadership programs of FFA and 4-H throughout the state of South Carolina. Over 100 people attended the event, representing more than 35 towns in South Carolina. Black River Sporting Clays located in Kingstree, SC hosted the event.

The South Carolina FFA State Officer team participated in the event and expressed the sincere gratitude from the Association for the support of the FFA.

As a result of the event, ArborOne contributed $9500.00 to both the South Carolina FFA Association and the South Carolina 4H. A check presentation to the Association was held at the 85th South Carolina FFA Association State Convention.

This year's event will take place on November 3rd at Black River Sporting Clays in Kingstree, SC. We hope all SC FFA chapters and supporters will turn out to help support this outstanding event.

To Register for the 2012 Event:

Go To... or Scan...

http://www.scaged.org/SCFFA/12%20Aim-At-Ag/12%20Aim-At-Ag.htm

The Eagle is perched on top of the emblem and serves as a reminder of our freedom and ability to explore new horizons for the future of agriculture.

Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, and Living to Serve

Plant Presentation Day is an annual project of SC Association of Agricultural Educators. For this annual service project, beautiful spring bedding plants are grown by high school agriculture education students as part of their hands-on-training experience. The plants are then donated to the State of South Carolina and planted on the State House grounds. This project has allowed FFA members from across the state, with the guidance of their advisors, to truly live out the FFA Motto. The Motto LEARNING TO DO, DOING TO LEARN, EARNING TO LIVE, AND LIVING TO SERVE is what Agriculture Educators strive to instill in the minds of their students.

Receiving the Flowers are Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers and State House Horticulturist Dennis Haigler. Flowers are presented by Perry Loftis, SCFFA President; Bert Beasley, SCAAE President; and Pat Black, Agriculture Educator at Branchville High School.

This year's Plant Presentation Ceremony was held on April 18, 2012 on the north side steps of the State House. Mr. Pat Black, Agriculture Educator at Branchville High School, presided over the event.

The program began with the posting of the colors presented by Manning FFA Color Guard members Caleb Elms, Deshawn Blanding, Steven Woodard, and Trevon Andrews. The National Anthem was performed by Manning FFA member Siquena Witherspoon.

Other program participants included Logan Layne, Vice President of the SCFFA Association from Manning; Perry Loftis, President of the SCFFA Association from Starr; and Bert Beasley, President of the South Carolina Association of Agriculture Educators and Agriculture Educator at East Clarendon High School. Remarks were brought by State Senator Yancey McGill, Member of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and Representative Nelson Hardwick, Chairman of the House Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environmental Affairs Committee

The plants were presented to Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers and Dennis Haigler, Horticulturalist with the Division of General Services.

Southeastern Agriculture Educators Convene In Charleston, SC

The South Carolina Association of Agriculture Educators played host to the NAAE Region V Conference held on June 24-27, 2012 at the Charleston Harbor Resort and Marina. Representatives from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee were in attendance. The conference included several business and committee meetings, a tour of the Charleston Tea Plantation, a Charleston Ghost Walk, and a dinner at the World Famous Hymans Seafood. Agriculture Educators from across the Southeast were also given the opportunity to observe the presentations for the Idea's Unlimited contest and to select the regional winners for all of the contests that are sponsored by the NAAE. Daryl Behel, NAAE Region V Vice-President from Alabama presided over the meetings. The event was coordinated by the SCAAE State Officers. Next year's conference will be hosted by the Tennessee Association.

The Rising Sun appears in the center of the emblem and symbolizes progress in agriculture and the confidence that FFA Members have in the future.

Aiken County Hosts Summer Conference

Aiken County hosted The South Carolina Association of Agricultural Educators annual Summer Conference on July 18 – 19. Approximately 125 Agricultural Teachers and guests from around the state attended the event.

Under the leadership of Meghan Wood, Agriculture Teacher at Aiken High School the event was headquartered at the historic Aiken Hotel. Sessions were held at the nearby Aiken County Municipal Building with workshops held at Aiken High School.

A highlight of the Conference was the Annual SCAAE Awards Banquet held at Aiken's prestigious Hounds Lake Country Club where the SCAAE presented awards and honored its top teachers.

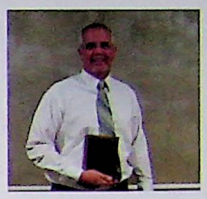
The SCAAE wishes to offer a special thanks to all of the workshop presenters and supporters who were in attendance. A special thanks goes to CEV Multimedia and Horace Mann Insurance for sponsoring the lunch and to Golden Pacific Structures for sponsoring refreshments for the breaks.

Outstanding Program
Pendleton H.S. Teachers: Blake Berry (pictured) and Josh Murdock

Teacher Turn the Key
Christina Alexander
Seneca

Outstanding Teacher
Glenn Stevens
Belton-Honea Path High School

Ideas Unlimited
Robert Bollier
Cheraw High School and Tammy Haile, SCACTE

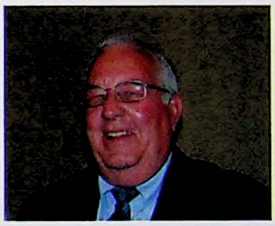


Teacher Mentor
Frank Stover
Pelion High School

Outstanding Young Teacher
Margaret Shelton
Pickens County Career Center

Wesley Harris Presented John W. Parris Award

The South Carolina Association of Agricultural Educators awarded the John W. Parris Award to Wesley Harris of the South Carolina Rural Rehabilitation Corporation at their State Conference held in Aiken over the summer.



The John W. Parris Award is the highest award presented by the Association and is presented to an individual for his / her active support for Agricultural Education in South Carolina.

Harris became a member of the South Carolina Rural Rehabilitation Corporation (SCRRC) Board of Directors in June of 2006 and has been the Secretary/Treasurer of the organization since November 2008.

The SCRRC is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to the promotion and support of South Carolina agriculture. The Corporation makes loans to South Carolina farmers for any farm related purpose and provides grant funds to Clemson University for scholarships to members of SC farm families who are attending Clemson University and majoring in any subject area whose degree is granted through the School of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Science.

SCRRC also provides $3,000 each year to the FFA chapters judged to be the winning chapters in the Governor's Citation Annual Competition and contributes $2,000 annually to support the 4-H program in South Carolina. The cumulative contribution to the three programs now exceeds $2,139,000.

Williams Named 2012 SCAAE Distinguished Teacher

Allen Williams, Agriculture Teacher at Wagner-Salley High School was presented the SCAAE Distinguished Teacher Award at the 2012 SCAAE Annual Conference.

The Award was developed by the association's Executive Board to recognize a teacher each year for the outstanding work that he / she does in the classroom as well as with other components of an Agricultural Education Program . The winner is nominated and voted on by his / her peers.

Mr. Williams, is a highly respected teacher throughout the state where he has earned numerous awards from the South Carolina FFA Association, the South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association and the South Carolina Association of Agricultural Educators.

South Carolina Retiring Teachers - 2012

Thomas Dawkins
Estil High School

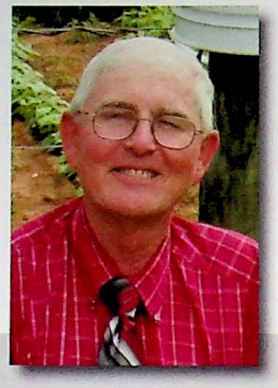
Thomas Dawkins served 2 years in the Armed Forces (from 1969 to 1971) as a military police officer. After his time in the military, he furthered his education at Tri-County Tech where he earned an Associate degree in Applied Science in Agricultural Engineering Technology. In 1975 he applied to Clemson University and was accepted as a transfer student into the Agricultural Education program. Shortly after, he was reacquainted with and married his lovely wife Jennifer Webb Dawkins.

After graduating from Clemson University, Mr. Dawkins was recruited by the late W.P. Lloyd, the district consultant for Agricultural Education, to teach Agriculture at Estill High School. Mr. Dawkins' educational path was directed to Estill High School. This career move was indeed a journey and a labor of love for the next 32 years.

Throughout the years, Thomas and Jennifer Dawkins were blessed with seven beautiful children. Their family continues to expand with the addition of 2 sons-in-law, 3 daughters-in-law and 12 grandchildren with 1 more on the way.

Mr. Dawkins is very proud that all of his children are college graduates. He would always tell his students that he wants for them what he wants for his own children.

Frank Sandifer
Floyd D. Johnson Vocational Center

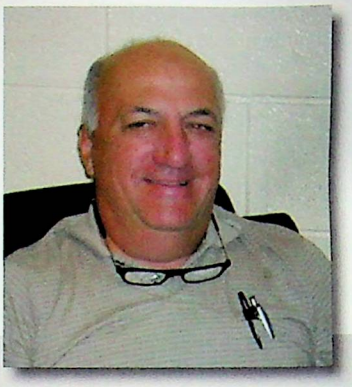


Frank Sandifer completed his Bachelors Degree in Agriculture Education from Clemson University in 1972 and he obtained a Masters Degree in 1973. His first teaching assignment was at Walhalla High School where he taught Environmental Science, Agriculture Science, and Agriculture Mechanics from 1973 to 1979. In 1979 Mr. Sandifer moved to York county where he taught Agriculture Science, Horticulture, and Agriculture Mechanics for the York School District One from 1979-2012. Mr. Sandifer retired in 2012 with 39 years of service to Agriculture Education and the FFA.

Standing beside him, through his time of service and dedication, was his wife Brenda. Mr. Sandifer attributes much of his success to his understanding and loving wife. Through the years Frank and Brenda were blessed with two children, Will and Sarah Louise.

Over the years Mr. Sandifer has trained numerous state winning Career Development Event winning teams, has had State Officers, Star Farmers, and has had students follow in his footsteps of teaching Agriculture. Mr. Sandifer has had a lasting impact on the communities and students that he has served.

Sam Gilliam
Abbeville County Career Center



Sam Gilliam completed his Bachelors Degree in Agriculture Mechanization and Business from Clemson University in 1977. It was then that he decided to get certified to teach Agriculture Mechanics. Mr. Gilliam began his teaching career at Abbeville County Career Center where he taught Agriculture Mechanics until his retirement in 2012. During his 28 years of service to the profession, Mr. Gilliam was able to train students with the life skills and technical knowledge necessary in a very competitive job market.

Sam's loving wife Frances, also a Clemson graduate, has been an instrumental figure in his life and career over the years. They are blessed to have three children Tripp, Wesley, and Joseph and one grandson Jacob. All three of their children have attended Clemson University.

The impact that Mr. Gilliam has had on his students and Abbeville County will be one that lasts a lifetime.

The Owl represents knowledge and wisdom that is necessary to be successful in the agricultural industry.

Aiken Hosts SC Young Farmer-Agribusiness Tour

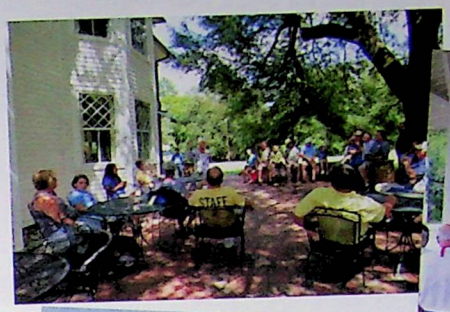
The Aiken County Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter hosted the annual summer tour for members and guests of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association on July 21-22, 2012.

Meghan Wood, Agricultural Education Instructor at Aiken High School, coordinated the event with the assistance of Rick Rasmussen, Chapter President, and the Aiken County Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter.

The tour began on Friday with a rotational tour of historic downtown Aiken. The tour stops included Hopeland Gardens, The Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame, the Rye Patch, The Aiken County Museum, and the Aiken Visitors Center and Train Museum. Friday concluded with dinner and entertainment at the Black Forest Equestrian Center.

Saturday began bright and early with a tour of the Gaston Livery Stables and the Aiken Farmers' Market. From there stops included Titan Peach Farms in Ridge Spring and Layman Wholesale Nursery in Trenton.

The tour ended with a fabulous country lunch at the Asbill House Plantation in Ridge Spring.



Agriculture: A Way Of Life

Jeff Sandifer has been involved in the agriculture industry his entire life. As a fourth generation farmer, Jeff was raised on the fact that agriculture was a very honorable way of life.

Upon graduating high school, Jeff left the farm to attend Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Ga. After two years at ABAC, he transferred to Clemson University where he was a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho agriculture fraternity. Jeff completed his degree in Agriculture Mechanization from Clemson University in 2001.

After completing his education, Jeff was very eager to return to the farm life that he loved so much. This is when Jeff and his wife Mindy, Agriculture teacher at Barnwell County Career Center, moved back to Barnwell and the family farm.

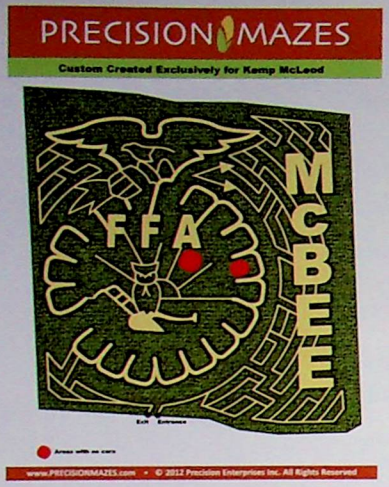
After full time farming for ten years, Jeff decided to further use his agricultural knowledge and pursue a career in Agribusiness. Along with his Farming enterprise, Jeff currently works for Americot Cotton Seed. In this position he works with both farmers and company sales representatives in the southeast region to install test plots, collect and deliver data on Americot cottonseed varieties, in addition to selling the seed. Since starting with Americot Jeff has doubled the sales of their varieties in his territory. By producing his own cotton, Jeff offers more assistance to the farmers when they have questions related to the Americot varieties and cotton production in general.

When he is not working with custumers or farming, Jeff is very active in his church and community. Jeff allows young people to tour the farm or test plots to gain hands on experience with modern agriculture practices. He believes that it is very important to pass his knowledge on to the next generation.

Jeff is an active member of the Colleton - Bamburg Young Farmer Chapter and has served a State President of the South Carolina Young Farmer & Agribusiness Association. Jeff has been selected as Lower-State Region Farmer of the Year and the Lower-State Region Agribusiness Person of the Year. Agriculture is in his blood and is his way of life.

The Plow is the symbol of labor and tillage of the soil, the backbone of agriculture and the historic foundation of our country's strength.

FFA - Mazing



McLeod Farms, in cooperation with the McBee High FFA Chapter, is presenting this year's edition of their Fall Festival's annual Corn Maze with an A-MAZING new design. This year's design will be the FFA Emblem! Familiar icons will be readily visible in the maze such as the owl, the plow, and the ear of corn. This 10-acre maze will have stations throughout the design to aid one in finding their way through. Each station will have questions about the FFA; answer it correctly, you will continue in the correct way. Profits from the maze will go toward a scholarship fund for a McBee FFA student continuing their education in the field of agriculture.

Vickery Wins 2012 Miss FFA Title

Savannah Vickery, a junior at Pendleton High School, was selected as 2012 Miss FFA during competition held Friday, March 16 in the Lexington County School District Three Fine Arts Center in Batesburg-Leesville. Fifty-six young ladies from across the state competed for the title. In addition to a crown, sash and plaque, Savannah received a $500 scholarship from Titan Farms of Ridge Springs, which she will use at the college of her choice.

Other finalists included: Hannah Capell (Pendleton High), first runner up; Mandy Martin (Pendleton High), second runner up; Kinsley Reeves (Strom Thurmond High), third runner up; and Angel Woody (Pendleton High), fourth runner up.

All of the contestants were judged on their applications, interviews, and evening wear. From these combined scores, the judges selected the top 10 semi-finalists. The semi-finalists then answered an on-stage question pertaining to FFA and their placement was then determined by the judges.

The Batesburg-Leesville High School FFA chapter and its advisor, Libby Templeton were in charge of the event.

SCFFA Est. 1928

Sumter County Career Center FFA Receives $2,500

The Sumter County Career Center FFA chapter was selected by Van Johnson, a Sumter farmer, as America's Farmers Grow Communities winner for Sumter County. On Feb. 23, Johnson and Jess Easterling, a representative from Monsanto - the company sponsoring the program - presented FFA adviser John Weathers with a check for $2,500.

Monsanto is a multinational agricultural biotechnology corporation that is a leading producer in genetically engineered seeds and produces herbicides found in products such as Round Up. The Monsanto Fund has been sponsoring the America's Farmers Grow Communities for a year and a half, and in that time, the fund has awarded more than $6 million. Farmers enroll in the project for a chance to win the money for a nonprofit organization in their county that they feel strengthens their community.

"I was surprised, honored and excited," Weathers said. "This will give us the opportunity to do some community projects." Weathers has taught at the Career Center for nearly 39 years.

Starting From Scratch

The Clinton FFA chapter was established in 2008, but has not been able to grow and produce plants for sales to support the chapter. In 2011, a local farm and garden store donated a greenhouse. FFA members worked along side of the Clinton High School carpentry and electricity classes to take down and move the greenhouse to the Clinton High School campus. FFA members were involved in the entire process from building the foundation, creating a drainage system, electrical and plumbing work, and the actual reconstruction of the greenhouse.

The greenhouse was completed in February 2012, and was opened for business during the grand opening sale on March 30, 2012, School district officials, faculty, staff, students, and city of Clinton officials were on hand for a ribbon cutting ceremony. This greenhouse has already proved to be beneficial to chapter fundraising and has helped the chapter get back on our feet and have a brand new start.

Congratulations to the 2012 SC Young Farmer and Aribusiness Association Scholarship Recipients

Troy Dobbins of the Pendleton FFA Chapter $1000.00

Corbin Yon and advisor Michael Crim of the Ridge Springs – Monetta FFA Chapter $1000.00

Jillian Lash, advisor and Ginger Brotherton of the Lakewood FFA Chapter $1000.00

Darla Steele, advisor and Kinsley Reeves of the Strom Thurmond FFA Chapter $1000.00

Andrew Snipes of the Pelion FFA Chapter $1000.00

Sally Yon of the Ridge Springs – Monetta FFA Chapter $1000.00

For More information and to apply for a Scholarship visit our website at: www.scaged.org/SCYF/index.htm

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- A.A.S., Major in Horticulture Technology
- A.S., Horticulture and/or Turfgrass, Clemson Transfer
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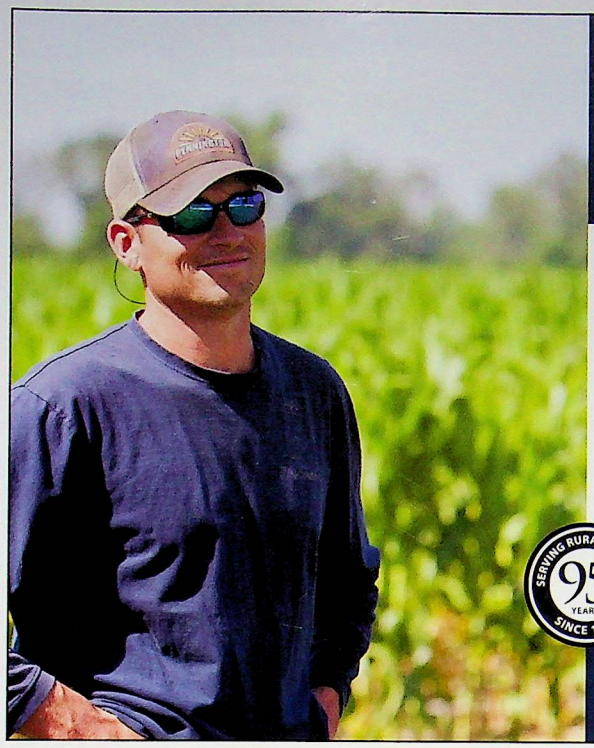

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